

Amendments to the Specification:

All amendments refer to paragraph sections of the official publication of the present case U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0023483 A1).

Please replace paragraph [0046] with the amended paragraph as follows:

[0046] In FIG. 3B there is a simplified description of the inventory management procedure for use by a retailer, which begins at step 320 whereat the list of items to be purchased is received by the retailer's computer 106 via the data network 102. The list of items in inventory is then parsed at step 322 and the ones that are either on the required purchases list or which satisfy the preference list are used to identify the various individual items on the lists. The individual items that are on the lists, at least some of which are presumably in inventory, are used to decrement the inventory count in step 324 thereby enabling the retailer to keep track of items actually in stock. As the count of items in an inventory remaining is decremented, it is possible to check the rate at which those items are leaving the store or the retailer's inventory and only to identify slow moving merchandise. In step 326, historical sales records of each particular item can be compared. In step 328 if the inventory decrement step reduces inventory on hand below some predetermined threshold, the retailer's computer 106 can generate a resupply order in step 330 which is transmitted to a vendor or manufacturer computer 108 via the data network on a just-in-time basis so that replenishing stocks can be obtained from the vendor or manufacturer before the supply of an inventory item is exhausted.

Please replace paragraph [0054] with the amended paragraph as follows:

[0054] FIG. 4 depicts a simplified representation of the steps of a method by which consumer purchasing data can be used by a manufacturer or supplier using the system depicted in FIGS. 1 and 2. From step 342 in FIG. 3C, in step 402, purchasing data in the form of items on one or both of the lists is sent to the manufacturer's computer 108 via the data network 102. Items that are to be purchased by the consumer and which have a coupon or purchase incentive available from the manufacturer are validated in step 406 preferably by using the personal identification number or logon script provided

by the consumer in step 302 of FIG. 3A. An electronic funds transfer in step 408 expedites the reimbursement of purchasing incentive funds from the manufacturer to the vendor improving the cash flow of the retailer as an added inducement to his implementation of the system depicted in FIGS. 1 and 2. Also, an electronic funds transfer in step 410 allows credit to be issued if necessary.

Please replace paragraph [0055] with the amended paragraph as follows:

[0055] In step 412 the items in the list to be purchased that were received in step 402 are used to calculate the amount of inventory remaining with the retailer using records of past shipments to the retailer by the manufacturer. Shipping history and prior sales buying in step 414 can be used to determine the amount of inventory remaining in the possession or custody of the retailer, but also to generate a user profile for a shopper. If in step 416 it is determined that the retailer is nearing or has depleted its inventory a confirmatory inquiry in step 418 can be used prior to preparation of a re-stocking shipment in step 412 420. At step 416 if it was determined that the retailer should have a sufficient amount of inventory remaining, program flow can return to step 402 to await the next delivery of purchasing information for the next consumer using the online method and system for collecting and processing consumer purchasing data.

Please replace paragraph [0056] with the amended paragraph as follows:

[0056] FIG. 5 depicts a simplified methodology by which a retailer's computer 106 can manage consumer purchasing data to expedite sales and facilitate a consumer's purchasing experience. In step 502, the purchaser's preference list or purchaser's required list is read by the retailer's computer 106. Items in inventory are compared to the items on the list in step 504 such that items in inventory are marked for purchase in step 506. Items that may not be on the purchase list and not in inventory can be compared against the user profile in step 508 to determine a list of substitute and conforming items that may be in inventory. If items in inventory that comport with the profile are in stock, and a match is determined in step 510, items that conform to the purchase preferences are marked for purchase in step 506. If there is not matching

items in inventory as a result of a test of step 510, an advisory or other message can be prepared for the consumer in step 512 to apprise him or her that at least some item in the list of preferences and lists of required purchases is not available. Once the items are marked for purchase in step 506, the consumer's list of preferences and the list of required purchases can be checked and if all items on both lists are accounted for, in step 514, an output list can be prepared after the output list is sorted at step 516 by the location of the goods in the physical store generating a list of items for purchase in the order in which they would appear to a consumer entering the store at one particular location. Once this list is printed in step 518 it can be sent by e-mail or printed locally or in the store for use by the consumer. In addition to printing the list, sorted by location, coupons, rebates or other forms of purchase money vouchers can be sent to the consumer's PDA electronically for an electronic redemption (via an infrared or Bluetooth protocol data transfer) or printed locally (at the consumer's discretion) for redemption.

Please replace paragraph [0063] with the amended paragraph as follows:

[0063] FIG. 8 shows a simplified block diagram of a kiosk or consumer terminal for use inside of a retail establishment. A data interface 802 can be coupled to a data network such as the data network 102 shown in FIG. 1. A consumer's list of preferences or required items can be downloaded directly to the central processing unit 804. Alternatively, user input from a keyboard 806 and display on a screen 808 or infrared (IR) interface 814 can be used to generate a list of consumer preferences or list of required items directly in the store using the terminal 800.